

**REMARKS**

Applicant has added Claim 21 and amended Claims 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13. Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 12-14, 16-17 and 21 are currently pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 9 and 13 to more clearly describe the invention. In regards to Claim 9, Applicant has amended Claim 9 to include the term “window sill” instead of “window.” This new terminology corresponds to the structure of the toy kitchen discussed on page 5, line 20 of the specification.

In regards to Claim 13, Applicant has amended Claim 13 to recite that the play areas are “partially” bounded by the first unit. As illustrated in Figure 5 and described in the specification on pages 7 and 8, the play areas, labeled 84 and 86, are a defined area or space where a child may play. The “play areas” are defined by the intersection of the island and the main unit. As illustrated in Figure 5, the main unit and the island form a partial boundary for the play area or space. The remaining “boundary” is open to give a child the desired freedom for role play with the kitchen set.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 2, 9 and 13 to more clearly define the present invention.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6, 11-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 197 00 149 issued to Klein. In response, the Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 12 to specifically state that the repositionable island is positioned perpendicular to the main unit of the kitchen, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 5. As a result, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C 102(b) rejections are now moot.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,135,315 issued to McKee. In response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to specifically state that the repositionable island is positioned perpendicular to the main unit of the kitchen, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 5. As a result, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C 102(b) rejections are now moot.

The present invention as set forth in amended independent Claims 1 and 12 requires the repositionable island to be positioned perpendicular to the main unit of the kitchen set. Applicant has also added new Claim 21 that states that the repositionable island extends outwardly from the front surface of the main unit. Neither the Klein patent nor the McKee patent discloses or suggests a repositionable island that may be positioned perpendicular to or extend outwardly from the front surface of the main unit.

More specifically, in regards to the Klein patent, the Klein patent illustrates a toy kitchen with interchangeable modules. The Examiner argues that the Klein patent teaches a main unit with a second unit attached to a front surface of the main unit. However, as indicated by the Examiner's markings with respect to Figure 11, the second unit is attached to the side of the

main unit so that it is adjacent to the main unit. <sup>NOT Claim</sup> The second unit does not extend outwardly from the main unit so that it is oriented perpendicular to the front surface of the main unit.

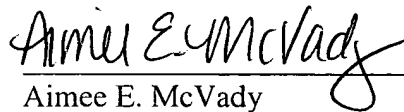
In regards to the McKee patent, the McKee patent also illustrates a kitchen formed from interchangeable modules that are positioned adjacent one another. The Examiner argues that the McKee patent teaches a main unit with a second unit attached to a front surface of the main unit. However, as illustrated in Figure 10 of the McKee patent, the Examiner considers the main unit to be a cabinet and the second unit to be auxiliary member 96 that is placed adjacent to the cabinet to form the end wall of the cabinet. <sup>Thus</sup> Thus, the second unit does not extend outwardly from the main unit so that it is perpendicular to the front surface of the main unit.

Moreover, each appliance or cabinet of the Klein and McKee patents includes a door on the front surface of the appliance or cabinet. It would not be desirable for any of the components of either the Klein patent or the McKee patent to be positioned perpendicular to the main unit because a child would not be able to use the doors of the appliances or the cabinets of the main unit if a module were placed in front of the appliances or cabinets.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 12, as amended, and new Claim 21 are patentable over the Klein patent. Applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 6, and 13, 14, 16 and 17, which are dependent on Claims 1 and 12, respectively, are also patentable over the Klein patent. Applicant also submits that independent Claim 1, as amended, and new Claim 21 are patentable over the McKee patent and Claim 9, which is dependent on Claim 1, is also patentable over the McKee patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made to the Claims

21. (New) A toy kitchen comprising:

a main unit having a front surface; and

a repositionable island removably coupled to the front surface of the main unit, wherein the repositionable island extends outwardly from the front surface of the main unit thereby forming at least two separate play areas.

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1. (Thrice Amended) A toy kitchen comprising:

a main unit having a front surface; and

a repositionable island removably coupled to the [a] front surface of the main unit, wherein the repositionable island is perpendicular to the front surface of the main unit thereby [to] forming at least two separate play areas.

2. (Amended) The toy kitchen of claim 1 wherein the main unit includes a first side wall and a second side wall, the repositionable island [is] being removably attached to the main unit at one of the first and second side walls [in one of at least three positions].

*112 how is it attached to first & second*

*When 1 C removed is correct to the front surface of main unit is this a new island*

9. (Twice Amended) The toy kitchen of claim 1 wherein the main unit includes a front side and a rear side, and wherein an opening is defined within the main unit extending from

the front side to the rear side, and wherein the main unit further comprises at least one of a window sill and a pair of shutters positioned at the opening.

12. (Thrice Amended) A repositionable toy kitchen comprising:

a first unit extending along a first substantially vertical longitudinal plane; and

at least one removable and repositionable second unit extending along a second substantially vertical longitudinal plane and positionable [adjacent] perpendicular to the first unit in a first position, wherein the repositionable second unit is removably connected to a front surface of the first unit to form at least two separate play areas, and a second position, in which the first and second longitudinal planes are substantially coplanar.

13. (Amended) The repositionable toy kitchen of claim 12 wherein the first position defines first and second play areas, the first and second play areas each partially bounded by one side of the first unit and one side of the second unit, and wherein the second position defines a continuous play area extending along one side of the first and second units.

